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AUTHOR	Chu, Donald
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ABSTRACT

The discussion of the relationship between higher education and intercollegiate athletics looks at the closeness and formality of the connection as a peculiar characteristic of American institutions. After a brief overview of the current situation of intercollegiate athletics, five chapters chronicle the history and examine the issues of this relationship. The first traces its development, looking at the issues of control and finance in American higher education and the search for money, students, and athletic prestige. The second examines the rationalization of institutionalized athletics programs in terms of their benefits for students and for the institution. The third reviews the condition of higher education and athletics and particular current issues: racism, sexism, unethical behavior, and the control of athletics and athletes. Sports are then examined from the point of view of the functions they perform for higher education: contribution to the sense of community, student involvement, and the sense of success of the institution and the participants. Finally, reflections on the future of college and sports focus on the responsibility of the higher education community and the role of college leadership in its reform. A 28-page bibliography is provided. (MSE)

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